

REMARKS

Selected claims have been amended before examination to clarify claim terms, correct obvious typographical errors, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 12, 20, 24, and 31 have been amended to clarify "combustible" in accordance with the specification at page 24, line 7. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments add no new matter to the application and earnestly solicit entry.

Claims 25 and 32 have been amended to correct a typographical error in the unit of measure for the particle size (μm).

Claims 26 and 33 have been amended and 39 to 46 have been added to more particularly claim the subject matter applicants regard as the invention. The claims now recite transition metal oxides and clarifies that mixtures of transition metal oxides are contemplated within the scope of the invention. Support for this amendment is found at the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14 of the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of these amendments adds objectionable new matter to the application and earnestly solicits entry thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 28, 2005

By: William J. Fisher

William J. Fisher
Registration No. 32,133

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.
1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Phone No. 202-824-3000
Fax No. 202-824-3001
WJF/bao